



# ***GIVING HOPE TO THE RELIGIOUSLY MIXED MARRIAGES***

**Wednesday Night Summer Series (7/29/09)**

*Lesson by Ray Reynolds*



Introduction: I realize that it is rare to hear sermons on this type of an issue. However, it fits well with our theme on “Giving Hope to Real People.” We have more “religiously mixed marriages” in the church than ever before. We need to give hope to those who are struggling to make them work. We cannot become a fellowship of judges and critics, but one of healers and encouragers. Paul and Peter could relate to those working through a religiously mixed marriage (**I Corinthians 7:12-16, I Peter 3:1-12**). We are going to consider their words of wisdom. And we are going to study what I call the seven “C’s” of Christian living for those in a religiously mixed marriage.

## Discussion:

### **I. Remember That You Are Chosen**

**Matthew 20:15, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 10:34-35, Romans 8:28-29, 39, Galatians 4:7, Ephesians 1:4, Deuteronomy 7:7-9**

### **II. Maintain Good Communication**

The #1 cause for divorce is poor communication.

Accept Yourself (**Matthew 7:12**), Accept Your Spouse (**I John 4:18**), Listen (**Proverbs 18:13**)

### **III. Learn How To Handle Conflict**

There is no way to prevent conflict.

Be honest and speak the truth in love (**Ephesians 4:15**).

### **IV. Be Considerate of Your Spouse**

Look for good in your spouse (**Matthew 7:3**)

Submit to your spouse (**Ephesians 5:21-33**)

Think about your actions, adornment, and attitude (**I Peter 3:1-12**)

Hang in there! (**I Corinthians 7:12-16**)

### **V. Take Care of the Children**

If you give up your children will suffer (consider the stats).

**Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21**

### **VI. Lean on the Church**

**Galatians 6:1-2, John 13:34-35, I Thessalonians 5:11**

### **VII. Hold Fast To Your Christianity**

Know your strengths and your weaknesses.

**Philippians 4:13, Romans 8:28-31, Matthew 28:20, I Peter 2:21-25**

Conclusion: Remember that you are the sermon your spouse sees everyday! You can sanctify the marriage! You can save yourself, your spouse, and your children! Don’t ever give up! And God forbid if the church ever turns its back on those who are struggling. We need to be more real with one another. We need to surrender our hypocrisy. We should not feel ashamed to admit when we need help or encouragement. This is the purpose of the church: to minister to one another and to the world. We are ministers of reconciliation! May God bless our work and may God bless our marriages.